

# **St Matthias' Church, Ballyeglish**

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023**

The trustees present the annual report and statements of Receipts and Payments and Assets and Liabilities for the Church for the year ended 31 December 2023

### **Objectives and Activities**

The charitable purpose of the Church of Ireland is the advancement of religion.

The principal function of St Matthias' Church, Ballyeglish is to support the advancement of the Christian religion by promoting, through their work the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. Being open to and engaging with society as a whole and offering support for those needing help are fundamental to the practical delivery of the benefits of Christianity.

As a result of activity in the pursuit of the advancement of the Christian religion, St Matthias' Church, Ballyeglish has custody of property and of records, materials and artefacts of significance to the cultural and religious heritage and maintenance of which is undertaken by the select vestry of St Matthias' Church, Ballyeglish.

### **Achievements, Performance & Public Benefit**

The Parish holds public worship at a variety of services each week throughout the church year – Holy Communion, Morning Prayer, Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals. There are services focusing on Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Harvest etc. Our WhatsApp services continue each week for those unable to attend and every morning our rector continues to support parishioners with a daily Bible reading and prayers.

Sunday School continues on Sunday mornings at 9.30AM and we are grateful to parents for bringing their children each week and to all our teachers for their dedication and support.

At all times we keep in mind our Safe Guarding Trust policy, Health and Safety requirements and regulations.

The purpose of our charitable fund raising is not only for our own costs, but also for a variety of need (see donations list note 8). This is a tangible demonstration of our mission and outreach – a reach that covers both home and abroad.

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

### **Financial Review**

- The results for the year are set out on page 8, which the Trustees consider to be satisfactory.
- The reserves of the Parish are held for the advancement of its charitable purpose, other than restricted reserves which are held for a designated purpose – see note 9.

### **Going Concern**

The trustees have reviewed the budgets for the year ahead and are satisfied that there are adequate funds in place to ensure that the Parish can continue its activities and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 can be signed off as a going concern.

# **St Matthias' Church, Ballyeglish**

## **Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023 (continued)**

### **Structure, Governance and Management**

#### ***Governing Document and Constitution of the Charity***

Chapter III of the Constitution of the Church of Ireland governs Parishes and Parochial Organisation. The Select Vestry members are the Charity Trustees.

#### ***Recruitment and Appointment of Select Vestry (Trustees)***

All members of the Church of Ireland who are over the age of 18 and are either resident within the parish or live elsewhere but have been accustomed members of the congregation for at least three months, may register as members of the general vestry of the parish, allowing them to attend and vote at meetings of the general vestry and to stand for election to the select vestry. Meetings of the general vestry are held at least once a year. The Select Vestry is elected as part of this General Vestry meeting. The Select Vestry will hold their positions for a period of one year. Select Vestry members may be re-elected annually and there is no limit on the number of terms which may be served.

#### ***Organisational Structure***

The select vestry is responsible for the day to day management of the parish. The select vestry consists of the member of the clergy serving in the parish, any curate assistant ("the curate"), the churchwardens, the glebe wardens and generally not more than twelve other members of the general vestry elected at the General Vestry.

The select vestry is chaired by the incumbent or other member of the clergy officiating in the parish. Select vestry members are responsible for making decisions on matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding how parish funds are to be applied.

The select vestry meets at times fixed by the members or by the diocesan synod. Special meetings may be convened at any time by the chairperson or the churchwardens. In 2023 the Select Vestry met 7 times during the year and the average attendance was 85%. Routine issues have also been discussed and dealt with in the Select Vestry WhatsApp Group

#### ***Compliance with Public Benefit***

The Parish has given careful consideration to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland's guidance on public benefit to ensure that the activities entered into during the year have helped to achieve the Parish's objectives and activities, as well as providing public benefit.

#### ***Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities***

The trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the statement of receipts and payments and statement of assets and liabilities in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

The law applicable to charities in Northern Ireland with Income of less than £250,000 requires the trustees to prepare a statement of receipts and payments and a statement of assets and liabilities for each financial year.

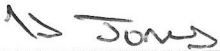
# St Matthias' Church, Ballyeglish

## Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2023(continued)

### Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities (continued)

The trustees are responsible for keeping accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Parish's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the assets and liabilities of the Parish. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Parish and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

#### Signed on Behalf of the Trustees



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Helen Jones  
Trustee



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Clare Bates  
Trustee

10 April 2024

10 April 2024